

**Amistad Academy
Board of Directors**

370 James St, New Haven

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 5:30 pm

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm by Carolyn Greenspan. The following board members and Achievement First Staff were in attendance:

Carolyn Greenspan - Yes

Lorraine Gibbons - Yes (Phone)

Tim Pavlis - Yes

Jane Levin - Yes (Phone)

Pat Sweet - Yes (Phone)

Jennifer Alexander - Yes (Phone)

Albert Maldonado - Yes (Phone)

Ethan Tyminski - Yes (phone)

Tyra Smallwood - Yes (phone)

Michael Hendricks, AF Network Support - Yes

Christina Ellington, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Blanton, AF Network Support - Yes

Sarah Claybaugh, AF Network Support - Yes

Ken Paul, AF Network Support - Yes

II. Open Session for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approve Minutes

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the meeting minutes from January 28, 2020.

Motion by Tim Pavlis

Seconded by Jennifer Alexander

All in favor

IV. School Report

Amistad Middle School Regional Superintendent, Michael Hendricks, reported on the lead up to state exams at the school, including mock exams, small group instruction, and structural support for students. The school celebrated Black History Month in February, which included an assembly. They are currently focusing on hiring for next year as well as piloting a new onboarding program.

Christina Ellington, Amistad Elementary Regional Superintendent, gave her report noting that there has been strong improvement in ELA across 2nd through 4th grade. The school's strategy

in the lead up to state exams has allowed for this growth to occur. The school leadership team has been focused on reduction of school suspensions, and debriefing continuously in order to meet their goals. Academically, the school leadership team has focused on daily staff audits and looking at student work in order to grow deans.

V. Treasurer Report

Tim Pavlis, Board Treasurer, gave the financial report, noting no significant difference in the report from last meeting. The High School has a known deficit, which has slightly improved since January. Additionally, Amistad Academy did not get approved for students above the cap for enrollment, and therefore has funding for fewer students than are enrolled. There has been some discussion of the impacts from COVID-19 and scenario planning is occurring.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors hereby approves the financial report as presented.

Motion by Carolyn Greenspan

Seconded by Pat Sweet

All in favor

VI. Executive Session

Tim Pavlis made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:25 pm to have a discussion relating to a personnel matter involving the Amistad High School principal and a complaint concerning student suspensions. Carolyn Greenspan invited Sarah Blanton to join the board in executive session. Seconded by Albert Maldonado. All in favor.

The board exited Executive Session at 6:44 pm. Motion by Tim Pavlis. Seconded by Jane Levin. All in favor.

VII. Joint High School Committee Report

Jane Levin gave the Amistad High School Report based on the Committee meeting with Shannon Garfield. Over 93% of seniors have been accepted into college to date. The high school sports teams have had a great year, including girls' basketball, who made it to the state championship. The High School Personnel Committee met on March 5th and will continue their conversation at a meeting scheduled for March 13th.

VIII. Board Chair Report

Carolyn Greenspan discussed her disappointment with the charter renewal of two years with probation. She is confident in the work that Achievement First is doing to resolve the compliance issues noted in the renewal.

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors has discussed the performance of the Amistad Academy Principal intending to return for the 2020-21 school year and the compensation package as proposed by Achievement First, and hereby approves the renewal of the following principal, with a final compensation package to be incorporated in the FY21 Budget to be reviewed and approved in May 2020:

- Brooke Williams, Principal, Amistad Academy Elementary School

Motion by Tim Pavlis

Seconded by Albert Maldonado

All in favor

RESOLVED, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Tim Pavlis

All in favor

RESOLVED, the Amistad Academy Board of Directors will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

Motion by Pat Sweet

Seconded by Tim Pavlis

All in favor

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Motion by Tim Pavlis

Seconded by Jane Levin

All in favor